

Safety On The Road

Keep Traffic Moving Freely

The freeway can be the quickest and safest way to get from Point A to Point B. With its limited access, multiple lanes and consistent speeds, freeways allow traffic to move with a minimum of conflict. However, when collisions occur on a freeway they are serious because of the traffic volume and high speeds involved.

Here are some reminders about safe freeway driving:

- Keep your distance from other vehicles. Stay far enough back from the vehicle ahead to allow for unexpected stops. Allow for more space in less-than-ideal conditions.
- Avoid lane-hopping. Choosing which lane to travel in depends on the traffic situation and the design of the freeway. On a freeway with two lanes going in one direction, the right-hand lane is the cruising lane and the left hand lane is the passing lane.
- On freeways with three lanes going one direction, the right-hand lane will be a lower speed through lane, the center lane a higher speed through lane, and the left lane a passing lane.
- When there is a hazard ahead of you such as an accident scene or an object which has fallen from a truck, steer around it if you can instead of stopping and risking a rear-end collision.

As a driver in the through lane, you can help those entering the freeway to enter or exit smoothly and without accident or disruption of the traffic flow:

- Watch for merge signs warning you other drivers will be trying to enter the freeway. At complex highway interchanges, it is necessary to use specific lanes. Watch for signs before these interchanges and make your lane change early, especially if traffic is heavy.
- If you are traveling in the right-hand lane you may be able to help merging drivers by adjusting your speed or even moving into the next lane.
- In the right-hand lane, a driver ahead may slow or even cross several lanes of traffic for an exit. When you see an exit sign, be prepared for such actions by other drivers.

Here are some more safety reminders for drivers of trucks and other large vehicles:

- Watch for signs prohibiting trucks from using the left lane on multi-lane highways.
- Watch for signs limiting the height, width, length and weight of vehicles, particularly when approaching exits, overpasses, bridges, toll gates and other features. Strict observance of these restrictions protects the driver, the load and other users of the highway.
- When driving a top-heavy vehicle such as a truck, it is vital you adjust your speed promptly as you enter a deceleration ramp. If you take a curve too fast, the centrifugal force can cause your vehicle to go out of control and flip.

Safe freeway travel depends on all drivers co-operating to avoid traffic conflicts.

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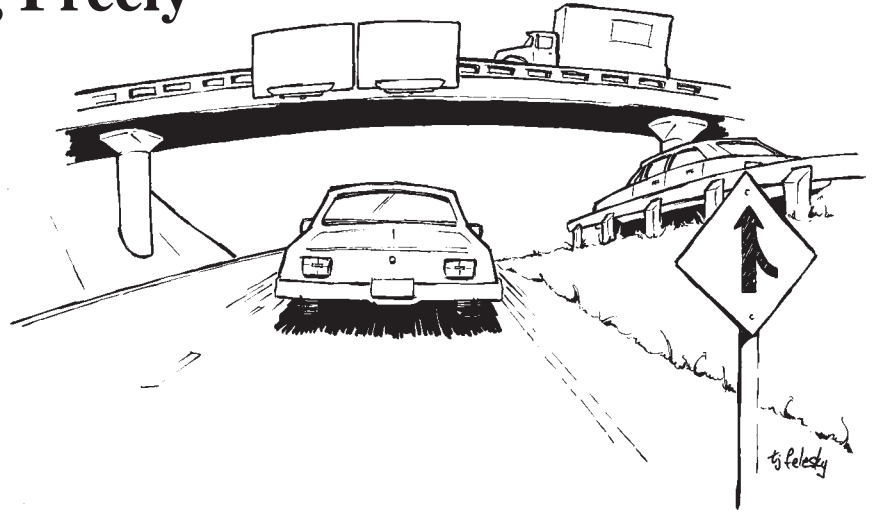
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